

PAPERS READ.

REPTILES FROM NEW GUINEA.

By C. W. DE Vis, M.A., CORR. MEM.

The following reptiles have lately been found on the St. Joseph River, New Guinea, by Mr. A. C. English, collector to his Honor the Administrator.

LACERTILIA.

VARANIDÆ.

Varanus prasinus, Schleg.*Varanus salvadorii*, Ptrs. & Dor.

AGAMIDÆ.

Gonyocephalus dilophus, D. & B.

SCINCIDÆ.

Tiliquina.

Tiliqua gigas, Schneid.

Lygosomina.

Hinulia jobiensis, Mey.*Emoa pallidiceps*, n.s.*Emoa cuneiceps*, n.s.*Heteropus bicarinatus*, Macl.*Heteropus fuscus*, D. & B.*Homolepida englishi*, n.s.

PYGOPODIDÆ.

Lialis burtonii, Gr.

OPHIDIA.

PYTHONIDÆ

Liasis amethystinus, Schneid.*Chondropython azureus*, Mey.*Chondropython pulcher*, Sauv.

EMOA PALLIDICEPS, n.s.

Habit slender ; head subelongate ; snout pyramidal, moderately depressed, subacuminate. A supranasal distinct, or occasionally less

clearly defined. Frontonasal broader than long, forming a broad suture with the rostral, a narrower one with the frontal. Frontal as long as the frontoparietal, but narrower. No interparietal. Parietals forming a long suture behind the frontoparietal, bounded caudad by a pair of nuchals and a pair of temporals. Five supraoculars, the last one minute. Seven supraciliaries. Ear orifice broadly lenticular, with two or three small lobules anteriorly, larger than the palpebral disk. Four labials before the large subocular. 32 to 34 scale rows round the middle of the body; dorsals trilineated but smooth, larger than ventrals; ventrals larger than laterals. Preanals slightly or moderately enlarged. The protracted hind limb reaches the axilla. Digits moderate in length; basal phalanges rounded, distal compressed; subdigital lamellæ smooth, 33 to 36 under the fourth toe. Above olive-brown; nape and upper surface of head paler and generally immaculate; back with blackish spots, generally arranged in a regular double line on each side, and sometimes separated by spaces lighter than the ground colour; sides black, this colour sharply defined above, and especially on the neck, from the ground colour of the upper surface; on the flanks interrupted by a pale streak from the axilla to the groin and frequently spotted with pale brown, occasionally with distinct white spots; beneath yellowish-white, more or less stained with green.

Total length.....150mm. Width of head.....9mm.

Length of head.....13 Length of fore limb...14·5

Length of head and neck...20 Length of hind limb...24·5

Length of flank.....25 Length of fourth toe.....7·5

Length of tail.....100mm.

Many examples. May be compared with *E. singaporensis*, Steind.

EMOA CUNEICEPS, n.s.

Habit elongate, slender; snout elongate, pyramidal, depressed, acuminate. A distinct supranasal. Frontonasal as long as broad, forming a narrow suture with the frontal, a broader one with the rostral. Frontal a little longer than the frontoparietal. Interparietal distinct. Parietals forming a short suture behind the

interparietal, which is bounded caudad by a pair of nuchals and a pair of temporals. Supraoculars four; supraciliaries seven. Ear orifice subcircular or oval, small, as large as or a little larger than the palpebral disk; one to three small lobules on its anterior edge rarely wanting. Five upper labials anterior to large subocular. Scales round the middle of the body in 33 to 36 rows; dorsals rather larger than abdominals, smooth, with or without three or more obscure pigment lines. Preanal scales not or varyingly enlarged. The protracted hind limb reaches the elbow or a little beyond. Digits moderate in length, basal phalanges depressed, distal compressed; subdigital plates 75 to 87 under the fourth toe. Olive-brown, with a strong metallic iridescence, speckled on back and sides with paler scales, or nearly uniform; head above uniform brown; beneath green to greenish-yellow; mental and rostral plates pale buff.

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| Total length..... | 283 mm. | Width of head.... | 12.5 mm. |
| Length of head..... | 21.5 | Fore limb..... | 29 |
| Length of head and neck | 34 | Hind limb..... | 40 |
| Length of flank..... | 42 | Fourth toe..... | 13 |
| Tail..... | 201 mm. | | |

Many examples.

HOMOLEPIDA ENGLISHI, n.s.

Habit of body very stout, tapering rapidly to a small head, and obtusely pointed muzzle. Frontonasal broader than long, forming a short suture with the rostral, and a very short one with the frontal, the prefrontals being nearly in contact. Frontal large, longer than the frontoparietal and interparietal together; frontoparietals barely in contact; interparietal longer than frontoparietals; hinder portion of parietals divided off as nuchal scales forming a suture behind the interparietal. No nuchal plates. Fifth and sixth upper labials beneath the eye; an interrupted series of suboculars. Ear orifice moderate, rounded, shorter than the eye-slit. Scales in 32 rows round the middle of the body, smooth, the central dorsals very wide, short. A pair of enlarged preanals. Tail thick. Fourth toe the longest, subdigital plates 17. Above uniform dark olive brown. Sides with a broad black stripe from

the eye to the groin well defined from the brown of the upper surface and strongly contrasting with the pale buff of the lower surface. Chin and throat lead black; sides of tail with pale blotches in almost regular series.

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| Total length..... | 408mm. | Width of head | 20mm. |
| Length of head..... | 26 | Fore limb..... | 37 |
| Length of head and neck..... | 58 | Hind limb. | 55 |
| Length of flank..... | 72 | Fourth toe..... | 14.5 |
| Length of body | 92 | Tail | 290 |

One example.

HETEROPUS BICARINATUS, MacI.

A variety without longitudinal streaks, flecked all over the upper surface with black and green specks; tail salmon colour. Preanals enlarged. Ear orifice larger than normal. Subdigital lamellæ 26, scale-rows 30.

HETEROPUS FUSCUS, D. & B.

A well marked colour variety. The back and sides variegated more or less with greenish white spots which form a conspicuous marbling on the sides of the neck; a white band from the ear to beneath the eye constant. In one of the three specimens the interparietal is completely fused with the frontoparietal. The infradigital plates are in two cases 26, in the third 33; the scale rows 36-38. From these characters it seems probable that *H. rhomboidalis*, Pet., is also a variety of *H. fuscus*.

ON QUEENSLAND AND OTHER AUSTRALIAN LEPIDOPTERA, WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW SPECIES.

BY T. P. LUCAS, M.R.C.S.E., L.S.A., AND L.R.C.P., ED.